

March 2007

Further Information on UA 02/07 (MDE 14/001/2007, 04 January 2007) and follow-ups (MDE 14/003/2007, 15 January 2007; MDE 14/004/2007, 02 February 2007; MDE 14/009/2007, 12 February 2007 and MDE 14/016/2007, 15 March 2007) - Imminent execution/possible death sentence

IRAQ

Taha Yassin Ramadhan (m)

Taha Yassin Ramadhan, the former Iraqi vice-president, was executed by hanging in the early hours of 20 March in Baghdad. He is the fourth former official to be executed since Saddam Hussain was hanged on 30 December 2006.

On 5 November 2006, the Supreme Iraqi Criminal Tribunal (SICT) sentenced Taha Yassin Ramadhan to life in connection with the execution of 148 people from the village of al-Dujail, north of Baghdad, after a failed attempt to assassinate Saddam Hussain, in 1982. However, on 26 December the SICT's Appeals Chamber referred the case back to the court, requesting a harsher sentence. On 12 February, the SICT sentenced him to death and referred the case back to the Appeals Chamber, which upheld the death sentence on 15 March.

Since the reintroduction of the death penalty in Iraq in August 2004, scores of people have been sentenced to death and there has been a rapid rise in the number of executions. At least 65 people have been put to death in 2006 alone, many of them after trials which may have been unfair. Under Iraqi law those sentenced to death can seek pardon from the President. However, those sentenced to death by the Supreme Iraqi Criminal Tribunal cannot seek pardon from the President. This tribunal was established to bring to justice former officials suspected of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

No further action is requested from the UA network. Many thanks to all who sent appeals.
